

Vito Colamussi off the square conned LCI 77
emailed me this note.

"Vaughn, were you around Ulithi in Nov 1944? I think that's when that big typhoon hit the fleet anchored in Ulithi Lagoon and 3 DD's flipped over because of their top side being overweight? Well, during that storm, our little ole # -77 snapped its heavy storm anchor cable, so we had to ride out the typhoon underway; it was a miracle we made it. During the storm, the ship listed 52 degrees one time, if it would have went 1 degree more, we would have ended as the DD's did. Our ship's cook was washed over the side during the storm but managed to hold on to the rail lines and was saved by sheer luck. When walking the deck, we had lines tied around our waist while the Captain had us lashing down various items. After the storm passed, we heard about the DD's. Another spectacular scene was in the Saipan Area when the Ammo Ship, SS Eagle, was hit and blew apart, most fantastic firework display. Then an Oiler ship was hit & sunk, the crew was badly burnt, it was awful, we picked up some of the survivors with the oil burning on the surface of the ocean and transferred them to the USS Hope, they smelled like roasted pork. Their skin was charred, it was horrible for them to suffer like that. Gen Sherman was certainly right when he said, "War is hell!"

I told Vito our ship wasn't involved in that typhoon.